



Lassen Volcanic National Park

Road Opening Updates 2003

July 13, 2003

For Immediate Release

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* Updates will be issued when road or trail status changes.

ROAD AND TRAILS: OPEN/CLOSE STATUS

THE PARK ROAD (the road that connects Highway 89 through the park) is CLOSED

BUTTE LAKE ROAD is OPEN

JUNIPER LAKE ROAD is CLOSED

WARNER VALLEY ROAD is OPEN

TRAILS: The trails in the Manzanita Lake, Butte Lake, and Warner Valley are mostly clear for hiking. Storm-downed trees still obstruct some areas of these trails. Most other trails are still partially snow-covered. Lassen Peak trail still has substantial snow in the first mile but can be hiked with good boots. Gaiters and trekking poles are recommended; you do not need crampons or technical equipment. Telemark touring routes are available in the Lassen Peak area but snow condition is poor.

Bumpass Hell trail is closed for hiking or skiing due to dangerous snow conditions.

ROAD CREW PROGRESS LOG

March 10: Plows have begun removal of snow southward from the Loomis Ranger Station.

March 26: Plows began removing snow northbound from the Lassen Chalet.

March 28: Road from Manzanita Lake opened to the Devastated Area. (10 miles distance)

April 2: Road CLOSED from Manzanita Lake to Devastated Area due to snow (1 mile from north park entrance.)

Road CLOSED at the Lassen Chalet (2 miles from south park boundary.)

May 7: Road still CLOSED from Manzanita Lake to Devastated Area due to snow (1 mile from north park entrance.) Road still CLOSED at the Lassen Chalet (2 miles from south park boundary.)

- Plows removing snow northbound just south of Emerald Lake (5 miles from the Southwest Entrance.)
- Road crews expect the Park Road to be open to the Devastated Area and Bumpass Hell by Memorial Day weekend and entirely open in late June.
- More snow is expected throughout this week.

May 14: Road from Manzanita Lake OPENED to the Devastated Area (10 miles from the northwest entrance). Road still closed at the Lassen Chalet on the south side. At best, the entire Park Road will open in very late June. It is possible that it won't open until after the 4th of July weekend. Plows are removing snow in the Emerald Lake area and making about 0.1 mile of progress each day. They are encountering over 30 feet of snow in some places. Loss of GPS due to downed repeater plus the 17' of new snow in April are slowing operations. At present, snow is melting only about 1 inch a day. This should speed up as weather continues to warm up. Here are the latest estimates for opening dates:

- The road will be open to the Chalet for Memorial Day. Avalanche danger is extreme along all areas of the Park Road, especially in the afternoon. Visitors may walk up to Sulphur Works along the road at their own risk, but NO FURTHER. It is too hazardous beyond this point. Skiers should plan their travel for the AM to avoid avalanches.
- The Chalet snow play area will be open for Memorial Day weekend.
- Southwest Campground will be open for snow camping. (Still more than 10 feet of snow.)
- Plowing at Warner Valley should begin this week. It is unlikely that the road will open on time. Drakesbad Guest Ranch is pushing back its opening date to June 13.
- Butte Lake area still has 3-4 feet of snow. The road will not open until June.
- Juniper Lake will open in July.
- Manzanita Lake camping will be plowed for Memorial Day, but camping will be limited and many sites may still be covered in snow. There is still about 4 feet of snow in some places.
- No estimate on Summit Lake yet—lots of trees down.
- ALL trails are currently still under snow. Rent some snowshoes, folks! This is your chance to enjoy snow, beautiful scenery, and great spring weather all at the same time! Manzanita Lake area is the best place in the park to snowshoe and walk along the Park Road right now.

May 21: **See notes from May 14.** Most of the Manzanita Lake area is melted out. Plows are currently up to Lake Helen but the road cannot be opened yet due to the height of snow walls on either side, the instability of the snowpack, and the lack of any plowed areas large enough for vehicles to turn around. May 29: Road currently still opened to the Devastated Area from Manzanita Lake. Snow is melting rapidly, skiers are still able to ski around the area or walk on the road to Summit Lake.

- Road crews are expecting to have the road opened to the Bumpass Hell parking area by Fri June 6th. **This is a tentative opening date. The hike to Bumpass Hell will be closed due to extremely hazardous trail conditions which occur every year.**
- Most trails are currently still under snow except for those around Manzanita Lake. Rent some snowshoes, folks! This is your chance to enjoy snow, beautiful scenery, and great spring weather all at the same time!
- All other park roads are currently still closed to vehicles.

June 2: Road to Butte Lake opened.

June 6:

- Road opened to vehicles from the Lassen Chalet to the Bumpass Hell Parking lot. (Note: Bumpass Hell trail will not be open for hiking)
- Warner Valley road opened to vehicles.

June 18: Road currently still opened to Devastated Area from the north entrance. Road currently still opened to Bumpass Hell parking lot from the south entrance.

- Trails around the south area of the park are still snow covered and not available for hiking. Hiking is available at Manzanita Lake and Butte Lake areas.
- **The road to Juniper Lake will be opening later than expected with tentative opening mid to late July.** The campground will also be opening at this later date.